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Page 4**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An imageable composition comprising:
an acid curable composition;
an acid generator;
an infrared absorber; and optionally a colorant; wherein at least one of said infrared absorber and said colorant has a counter anion derived from a strong, non-volatile acid, having a pKa of not more than about 8.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said acid curable composition comprises:
a binder; and
a crosslinking agent for said binder.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 4.2, wherein said polymer binder is selected from the group consisting of: a polyol, a polyether polyol, a novolak resin, a resole resin, a hydroxyfunctional acrylic resin, a hydroxyfunctional polyester resin, an amino resin, an amido resin and combinations thereof.

6. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein said crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of: a resole resin, an amino resin, an amido resin, an epoxy compound having at least two epoxide groups and a combination thereof.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said acid generator is an ultraviolet, visible, or infrared radiation or heat activated compound.

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15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)

AS 18. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 16, wherein said oniumacid saltgenerator is selected from the group consisting of: an iodonium salt, a sulfonium salt, a hydrocarbyloxysulfonium salt, a hydrocarbyloxyammonium salt, an aryl diazonium salt and a combinations thereof.

19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said acid has a pKa of not more than about 4.

AS 28. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 27, wherein said strong nonvolatile acid is a sulfonic acid represented by the formula:



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of: a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl of 6 to 22 carbon atoms and a mixture thereof.

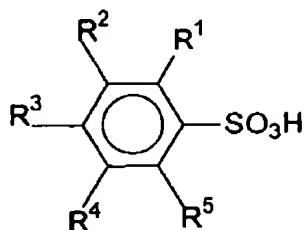
29. (Cancelled)

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q 30. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 28, wherein said sulfonic acid is an aryl sulfonic acid represented by the formula:

A1 T, 0460



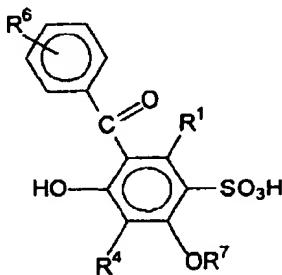
wherein each of R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, haloalkyl of 1 to 22 carbon atoms having at least one halogen, aryl of 6 to 12 carbon atoms, halogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, cyano, nitro, alkoxycarbonyl and acyl.

[31] (Cancelled)

10 32. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 30,28, wherein said aryl sulfonic acid is represented by the formula:

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08 T, 0462



wherein each of R¹, R⁴ and R⁶ is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, haloalkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms having at least one halogen, aryl of 6 to 12 carbon atoms, halogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, cyano, nitro, alkoxycarbonyl and acyl and wherein R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, haloalkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms having at least one halogen, aryl of 6 to 12 carbon atoms, alkoxycarbonyl and acyl.

33. (Original) The composition of claim 32, wherein said aryl sulfonic acid is 3-benzoyl-4-hydroxy-6-methoxybenzenesulfonic acid.

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34. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a photothermal converter material.

a⁹ 13 35. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said counter-anion of said infrared absorber comprises a conjugate base of a non-volatile acid.

a⁹ 36. (Cancelled)

a⁹ 37. (Cancelled)

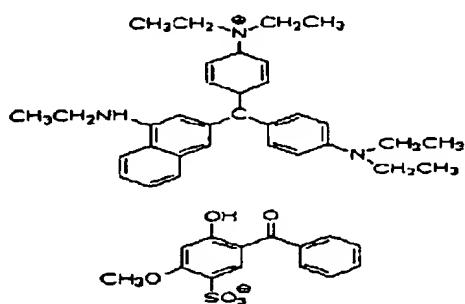
a¹⁰ 14 38. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said infrared absorber is selected from the group consisting of:— a pigment, a dye and a combinations thereof.

a¹⁰ 39. (Cancelled)

a¹¹ 15 40. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 38.1, wherein said infrared absorber is a dye selected from the group consisting of: cyanine dyes, squarylium dyes, pyrylium salts and nickel thiolate complexes.

a¹¹ 41. (Cancelled)

a¹¹ 16 42. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said colorant dye is further comprising a blue colorant dye represented by the formula:



a¹² 17 43. (Currently Amended) An imageable element comprising:
a substrate; and
a imageable composition coated on a surface of said substrate, said imageable composition comprising: an acid curable composition; an acid generator; an infrared absorber and optionally, a colorant, wherein at least one of said infrared absorber and said

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a¹²
colorant has a counter anion derived from a strong non-volatile acid, having a pKa of not more than about 8.

44. (Cancelled)

a¹³
18.45. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an imaged element comprising the steps of:

providing an imageable element comprising a substrate and an imageable composition coated on a surface of said substrate, said composition comprising an acid curable composition, an acid generator, an infrared absorber and optionally, a colorant, wherein at least one of said infrared absorber and said colorant has a counter anion derived from a strong, non-volatile acid, having a pKa of not more than about 8;

imagewise exposing said imageable element to radiation to produce an imagewise exposed element having exposed and unexposed regions;

baking said imagewise exposed element at a temperature and period of time sufficient to produce a cured element; and

contacting said cured element and a developer to remove the unexposed regions and thereby produce said imaged element.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein said exposing step is carried out using an infrared laser.

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